

SAMPLE LOCAL PROCLAMATION:

PROCLAMATION CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH SEPTEMBER 20XX

- Whereas Childhood Cancer is the #1 disease related killer of kids and teenagers in the U.S. One in five children diagnosed with cancer will die within five years of diagnosis. In addition, 1 in 285 American children will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20. Cancer alone represents nearly half of the top seven causes of death by disease in children aged 0-19 yrs. The average age of death for a child with cancer is 8, causing a child to lose 70 years of expected life.
- Whereas Childhood cancer is on the rise, with an estimated 17,293 children diagnosed every year (47 per day) in the United States alone. Childhood cancers and adult cancers are different, yet we continue to use the downsized adult cancer protocols on kids with many times devastating effects. The lack of childhood cancer research has tremendous impact on kids and significant costs to society.
- Whereas 1,190 children (aged 0 -14) and 540 adolescents (aged 15-19) are expected to die from cancer in 2022.
- Whereas The overall incidence of childhood cancer is on the increase, averaging 0.8% increase per year since 1975.
- Whereas Children who survive the five years after cancer diagnosis experience a 15-fold increased risk of developing Congestive Heart Failure and 7-fold higher risk of premature death due to cardiac causes. Survivors are also at increased risk for reoccurrence of the original cancer or of a secondary cancer. More than 95% of childhood cancer survivors will have a significant health related issue by the time they are 45 years of age; these health-related issues are side-effects of either the cancer or more commonly, the result of its treatment. 1/3 will suffer severe and chronic side effects; 1/3 will suffer moderate to severe health problems; and 1/3 will suffer slight to moderate side effects.
- Whereas The five-year survival rate for DIPG (Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Gliomas) remains almost 0%. The median survival for a child diagnosed with DIPG is 8-11 months.
- Whereas The financial toll that a childhood cancer diagnosis and treatment can take on a family is devastating. The average cost associated with childhood cancer for a single child is \$833,000 in medical costs and lost parental wages (based upon 2018 figures).

- Whereas Many adult cancers can be diagnosed early, yet in 80% of kids, cancer has already spread to other areas of the body by the time it is diagnosed.
- Whereas It is now understood by the scientific and research community that hazardous exposures in the environment are powerful causes of cancer in children and such exposures can be reduced or eliminated to decrease the rising number of children diagnosed with cancer.
- Whereas Despite these facts, childhood cancer research is vastly and consistently underfunded. A total of 34 drugs have been approved by the FDA for use in the treatment of childhood cancers. 28 of these drugs were originally approved only for adult use. Today we have only six drugs that were approved in the first instance for use in cancer treatment for children.

Now therefore, I, (name of elected official, title), by the authority vested in this office do hereby proclaim September 2022 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in (city/county/state). I encourage our community including all citizens, government agencies, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, the media, and other interested groups to increase awareness of what Americans can do to support the fight against childhood cancer.